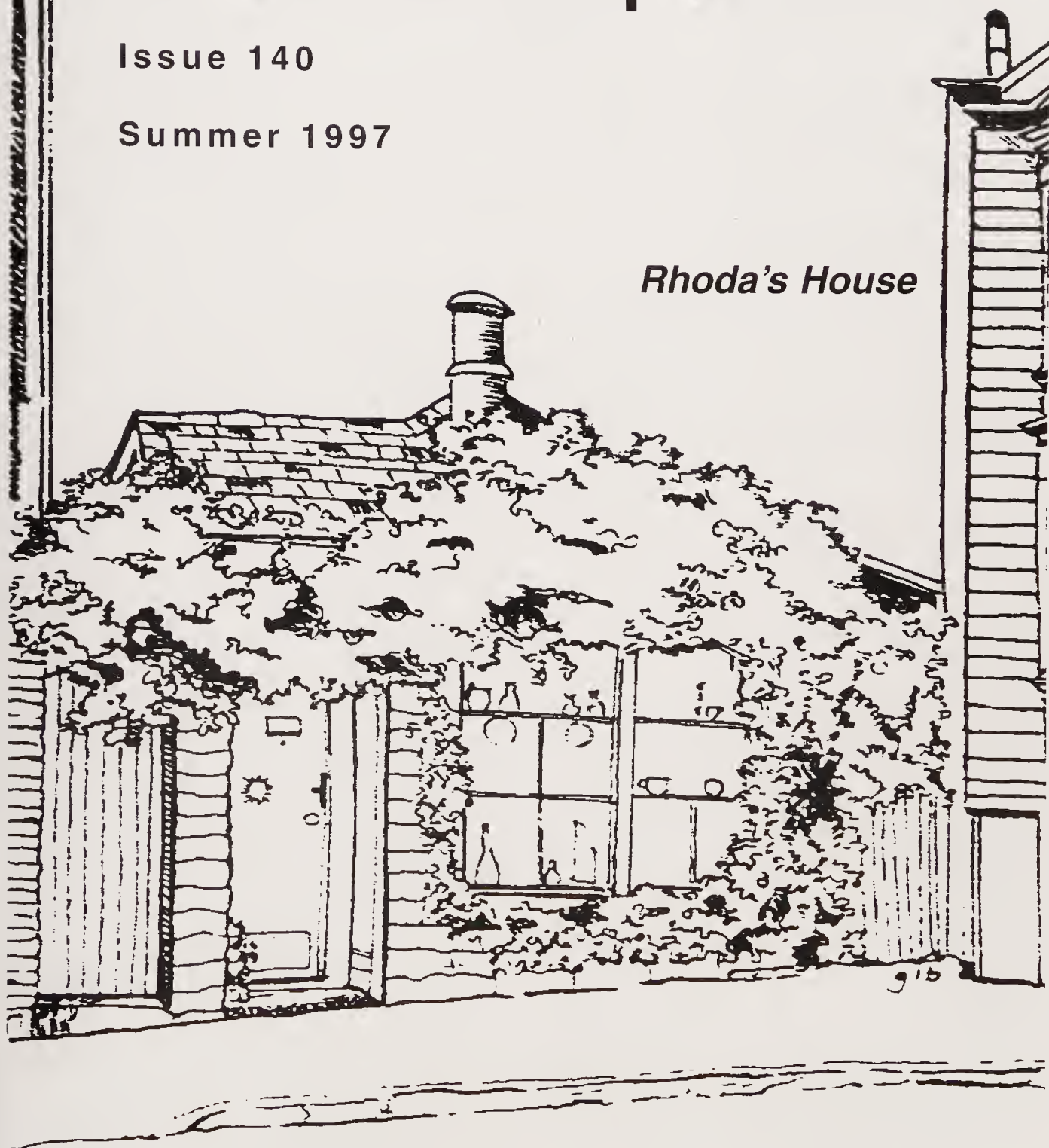


The Semaphore

Issue 140

Summer 1997

Rhoda's House



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Cover: Graphics artist G. Lee Boerger who works for the Arboretum and the California Academy of Sciences sketched Rhoda Robinson's house for last year's Christmas card.

The Semaphore is a publication of the Telegraph Hill Dwellers for its members. Articles, except for the summary of Board of Directors' Motions, do not necessarily reflect the official position of the Association or its Officers, but are the opinions of the writers of the individual signed articles. The Association can take no responsibility for their content. This membership publication is not to be reprinted or disseminated without written permission.

EDITOR'S DESK

The Semaphore needs to be self-supporting through the revenue it earns from advertisers. At precisely the time I took over, costs of postage, paper and production went up. When I raised advertising rates twenty percent to help offset costs, we didn't lose a single advertiser because of the increase. But we do lose advertisers if they don't see a return on their investment. Most of us frequent the restaurants and coffee houses that support us. We trade with the businesses and professionals who serve us well, but too rarely hear that their ad brought us and them together. This summer, please help me tell our advertisers "thank you." Be loyal and conspicuous patrons of the enterprises that pay for this publication. *The Semaphore* is still the best advertising buy in North Beach--a fact you might mention to prospects whose ads you think belong here.



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Rod Freebairn-Smith, a member of the San Francisco Art Commission and former THD President who has done so much to beautify the Hill, somehow found time to create new page graphics for *The Semaphore*--for the NICE Committee's Green Thumb Honor Roll and Heritage of the Hill reports. Lovely work--but everything Rod does is first class.

Ah, technology. Possibly a member will volunteer a day between August 5-10 to help me type the next *Semaphore* onto a disk for computer layout. For one person it's a lonely task. Two people, though, can have lunch together. Please call if you type and edit well on either Mac or a PC.

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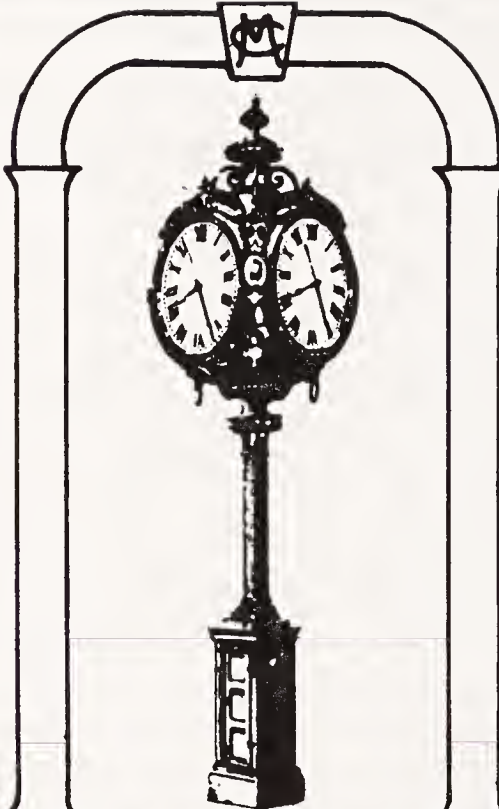
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President's Letter

As I contemplate the year ahead, I can't help but reflect on the last year under Joe Luttrell's leadership. Always fair, listening to and weighing both sides of an issue, bringing people together in an effort to compromise and resolve conflict, Joe had the respect of everyone he encountered. We are fortunate to have his counsel as he remains on the board in ex-officio capacity. As I write this, he and Sherry are about to embark on a much-deserved trip to Greece, and not leaving me phone numbers or names of hotels.

Also on my mind are the officers, directors and committee chairs who are stepping aside this term. I believe Pat Lorentzen has served as chair of the Crime Prevention Committee for more than ten years, not to mention her years as an officer. We are grateful to her for maintaining an excellent relationship with Central Station. Maud Hallin, so very involved in the Pioneer Park Project, is relinquishing her position as Treasurer now that she has THD on firm ground financially. We applaud her for keeping us on our fiscally



New President, **Gerry Crowley**

responsible toes. Dick Marshall and Jim Valenti have passed the Planning and Zoning baton to Nancy Shanahan and Aaron Peskin, while Paul Switzer is turning over the Parking and Traffic reigns to Sheila Black as he assumes the Treasurer's role. Appreciation is extended to Art Peterson and Ken Scudder for their service as they leave the board. Also immersed in the Pioneer Park Project, Dawne Bernhardt will be surrendering the N.I.C.E. Committee chair as soon as a replacement can be found. THD is indebted to each one of you.

Since the April election of officers, I have read THD's bylaws several times, and what stands out each time is our purpose as an organization--to beautify, improve and protect the character of Telegraph Hill. It amazes me that this has been accomplished over the last four-plus decades by caring volunteers, that enthusiastic volunteerism

continues today, more than ever. We have a great sense of continuity, consistency and history which makes us all proud. I look forward to working with the new officers, board, committee chairs and general membership during the coming year. Further, I encourage members who have not participated in committee work previously to get involved by contacting committee chairs or yours truly. There is room for everyone.

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THD BOARD RESOLUTIONS

February 11, 1997

The Board discussed and unanimously supported the following motions to:

Adopt and support the objectives of the Alta-Filbert Preservation Association.

Continue to be involved in the design process of a new garage on Vallejo Street, if the existing garage is replaced, particularly to protect the 40-foot height limit.

Thank Maud Hallin for the great job she's done as Treasurer.

March 11, 1997

The board unanimously supported a motion to donate \$100 to Breast Cancer Action in Norma Peterson's memory.

April 8, 1997

The Board discussed and unanimously supported the following motions to:

Continue to support ASTAC's (Association to Simplify Traffic and Abate Congestion) position on the Central Freeway, as expressed previously in a letter to Mayor Brown.

Make THD's mailing list available to fundraisers sponsoring an event to move the Bill Bailey Cottage to the Kearny Street right-of-way adjacent to Garfield School for the school's use as a Science building.

Decline an offer from DeBartolo Entertainment to make a presentation to THD's general membership on the proposed stadium.

SOCIAL NEWS

By Billie Atlas and Terry Bertrand

THDers celebrated the Year of the Ox at the April 7 General Membership Meeting at Meriwa Restaurant in Chinatown. New officers for 1997-99 were elected, followed by an outstanding program which focused on the past, present and future of Pioneer Park.

Dawne Bernhardt introduced the speakers including Howard Wong, whose excellent fast-paced slide presentation showed Pioneer Park in various stages of development, and views of Coit Tower from different parts of the city. Julie Christensen made the Hill's history both interesting and relevant. Rod Freebairn-

Smith highlighted past beautification projects; he explained ways art can be integrated into the plans and donors recognized.

Rounding out the interesting presentation, Joe Butler described the park's natural systems such as erosion control and irrigation, and past and future efforts of the First Saturday Work Parties. Landscape designer Lizzy Hirsch, a design committee member, reported on committee progress to date. Masha Zakheim described the Coit Tower murals as "little snapshots from the thirties," and enumerated the many fine murals in other parts of San Francisco.

San Francisco Symphony makes low-price tickets available to us on a first come/served basis for its All San

Francisco concert. Tentative (but probable) date is Thursday, September 4. Tickets are \$7.00. There's a limit of one guest per member. Make checks payable to **Telegraph Hill Dwellers** and mail to THD at *PO Box 330159, SF 94133*. Checks must be received by July 1.

Dates for other upcoming social events will be announced by postcard invitation. Plans are underway for another General Membership Meeting this summer, a New Members Cocktail Party, and get-acquainted events for younger members. Your ideas for social activities are welcome. Anyone interested in joining the Social Committee is invited to call Terry Bertrand at 981-3514 or Billie Atlas, 433-1634.

WHO'S NEW ON THE BOARD?

By Billie Atlas

THD's new directors are profiled below.

James Attwood. It's no surprise he's an enthusiastic booster of THD's goals for preserving the character of the Hill, also serving on its Planning and Zoning Committee. He and his wife, Firouzeh, live in a charming aerie on the upper reaches of the Grace Marchant Gardens. The cottage they purchased in 1986 had been involved in a heated controversy when a builder announced plans for a much larger home on the site. James remodeled the cottage himself. "It was crumbling when we bought it," he said, "and close to being condemned." He finished the work in 1989, then had to rent it out when Wells Fargo Bank transferred him to Hong Kong.

James was born and educated in England. In 1980 the London branch of Wells Fargo Bank sent him to San Francisco where he worked until the transfer to Hong Kong. He has been working as a financial consultant since he Firouzeh returned from an extended

sailing expedition a year ago.

Sheila Black. Long-time Hill dweller and THDer, Sheila Tobin Black is looking forward to taking a more active role by joining the board. During the past few years she's been busy earning a PhD in clinical psychology from Berkeley's Wright Institute. She is now a clinical psychologist with a Marin County-based private practice in individual adult and couples psychotherapy.

She's also the landlady of what she describes as "three tiny apartments on Kearny Street and the proud tender of a lawn, garden and ten trees, and the slave of a nine-pound silky terrier." Sheila's a native of Lake Placid, New York and lived in the east until moving to San Francisco in 1969. A widow, she's lived on the Hill since 1971. When she returns from a well-earned vacation in Bali, she will take charge of the Parking and Traffic Committee.

Karen Kevorkian. THD's new Recording Secretary is managing editor of publications for San Francisco's Fine Arts Museums. A native Texan, Karen has lived on the Hill for two years, becoming involved with THD after learning about the Pioneer Park Project through a mailing to area residents. She joined several Saturday work parties and decided that "gardening on the hillside can be both perilous and fun."

cont on pg. 9

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cont. from pg 8

Karen has an MFA in creative writing from the University of Virginia and taught English Literature at the University of Utah and writing classes at Virginia Commonwealth College. Before joining the Fine Arts Museums staff, she did public relations for the San Francisco Symphony. She's active in the SCIU city workers union and has served on the authors' committee for the annual Bay Area Book Festival. She has four grown children and enjoys music, writing, reading and her many friends.

Nancy Lenvin. Energetic and enthusiastic, this new board member and co-chair of the Crime Prevention Committee is no stranger to THD. A long-time member, she describes herself as someone who, "if asked to do something specific for the organization, I'll do it." A partner in the San Francisco law firm of Browning, Wholey and Lenvin, Nancy will serve on THD's Parking and Traffic Committee.

She came to San Francisco from Arlington, Virginia in 1969 to become the first woman associate to join the law firm of Heller, Ehrman, White and McAuliffe. She was a Public Utilities Commissioner under Dianne Feinstein and has an extensive public service background in legal aid and mental health. A Gerke Alley resident since 1988, Nancy says, "I love the neighborhood feeling here." She can't imagine living anywhere else.

Nancy Shanahan. A love of nature and dedication to conservation of our natural resources are what motivate this new board member. She joined THD after moving here in 1989 because, she says, "I always admired THD's reputation for protecting open space on the Hill."

An attorney with her own practice, Nancy came to San Francisco from Texas in 1980 when she was hired as regional counsel for the National Trust for Historic Preservation. Later, she moved on to become Western Regional counsel for the Trust for Public Land when she met her future husband, Aaron Peskin. She and Aaron will co-chair THD's Planning and Zoning Committee. They spend free time back-country skiing, camping, photographing and, when possible, travelling in Asia.

Paul Switzer. The new THD Treasurer, former chair of the Parking and Traffic Committee, says, "Joining Telegraph Hill Dwellers has been a good way to participate collectively in the affairs of our community." Parking and Traffic was a satisfying experience, he says, covering many issues from tour bus parking to re-defining parking areas, interacting with both SFPD and the San Francisco's Department of Parking and Traffic.

A native of Winnipeg, Canada Paul emigrated in 1967 and earned a PhD in Statistics at Harvard. He has taught Statistics and Earth Sciences at Stanford for the past twelve years. His wife, Gail, is a social worker and executive director of PCC-Zonta, a peninsula school for disturbed children. The Switzers live at the top of the Hill near Coit Tower and also maintain a small apartment on the Stanford campus.



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THD MEMBERS: WHO ARE THEY, ANYWAY?

By June Fraps

They're doctors, lawyers, but no Indian chiefs that we know of. They're architects, artists and astrologers, chemists, cooks and computer wizards, lawyers, writers, bankers and teachers and nurses. Just about anything you can think of.

If you've gotten a renewal notice in the last few months, you've noticed that we've included space for you to update information—new jobs, new phone numbers and the like, and the responses have been eye-opening. At the next THD Cocktail Party, find out

who your neighbors are!

And our sincere thanks to those members who are sending an additional contribution when they pay their dues. It's much appreciated!

Welcome to the members who have joined since the last issue of the Semaphore: Rosemary Benda, Robert Callahan, Arthur J. Collingsworth, John Early, Sheldon Milstein, Nancy Oliver, Lorraine Rominger, Vivianne Hurtado and Mark Russell, Ann Somerville, JoAnne Trafton and Donna Yurasek.

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PLANNING AND ZONING REPORT

By Richard Marshall

North Beach Garage

Planning and Zoning has joined the Parking and Traffic Committee's meetings with city officials to try to prevent the loss of 735 Vallejo. Destruction of this sound 1920 structure congruent in scale and style with the neighborhood would, for years, severely impact traffic and small businesses in the area while a replacement was constructed. Following a May 1 meeting with the Parking Authority, Herb Kosovitz reported that should the garage be demolished, its replacement would not exceed a height of forty feet. However, the decision for—or against—a new garage hasn't yet been made. A Parking Demand Study of the need for a \$6-8 million replacement garage is still under review.

Scenic Ordinance

Overwhelmingly approved by voting THD members and unanimous vote of the Board of Directors, the Ordinance needs to be approved by the City. According to Board of Supervisors President Barbara Kaufman, its next stop is City Planning, then the Ordinance will be submitted for final approval to the Board of Supervisors. Discussions with

planners and other city officials continue, led by Joe Luttrell and Herb Kosovitz.

255 Chestnut--Proposed Residence

Slow progress but substantial agreement on issues relating to building mass and height affecting the outlook from adjacent long established residences. The owner of the property has filed for a building permit, but states willingness to continue discussions with neighbors about their concerns.

Dalla Torre Restaurant

Progress continues on the issue of controlling sound originating from the restaurant at night. Owner and neighbors are communicating. Current emphasis is on the proposed idea of the owner installing an air conditioning system that permits closure of upper level windows. The system would operate below city noise limits, but not vibrate or intrude on views long enjoyed by adjacent neighbors.

Sansome Street Cliffs

Any construction proposed for the greenbelt on the east side of Telegraph Hill concerns all San

Franciscans, particularly a project that would threaten the Grace Marchant Gardens and dominate the eastern view of the Hill. See below, *Update-22-30 Alta Street* for developments to date.

Future Activities

New co-chairs of the Planning and Zoning Committee, Aaron Peskin and Nancy Shanahan, start their jobs knowing that what happens on San Francisco's Telegraph Hill is of international interest. Because the job of maintaining the Hill's unique qualities rests mainly with us, I hope you will contact them to offer your active support as they continue to monitor, report developments, and recommend action. Off to a good start, they led a Neighborhood Walk May 11 to acquaint us with various projects proposed in the neighborhood.

Rosemary Benda, CPA

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UPDATE--22-30 ALTA STREET

By James Attwood

The "apartment building that wouldn't die" has come back to visit us again. As many readers will remember, following the storms of February, 1992 a section of the Sansome Street cliff, just to the south of Filbert Street, slid away, leaving the foundation of the five-unit building at 22-30 Alta dangerously exposed. The City subsequently condemned the building and under much local and national media attention discovered that this was one tough old building which vainly resisted all efforts to be unceremoniously pushed and pulled over the cliff. It finally succumbed and the site, now itself substantially a cliff, has remained vacant.

Today the site is owned by three developers who would like to build there. In March they drew up plans and showed them to the Alta/Filbert Preservation Association. AFPA consists of fifty or so neighbors on the east side of the Hill and includes members of THD's Board of Directors and the Planning and Zoning Committee. AFPA's goals have been to ensure that whatever is built on that site,

- a) can be built safely without endangering adjoining properties,
- b) respect the Historic District, in which the site lies,
- c) has no adverse impact on the surrounding area, particularly the Grace Marchant Gardens, part of which fall across 22-30 Alta Street's lot.

The March plans called for a 3-unit condominium building with somewhere near 10,000 square feet of floor area plus a 6-car

garage. The building would be several times larger than any of its neighbors and would undoubtedly cast a long shadow across the Marchant Gardens for many months of the year. Concerns as to safety, size, and shading of the Garden were brought to the owners' attention, and they were invited to address these issues at THD's April Board Meeting.

At that meeting the owners advised they were redrawing their plans and will show revised plans to AFPA and THD. At this writing (May 5), we have not yet seen them. The Planning and Zoning Committee and THD's Board, together with AFPA, will continue to monitor developments at this site to ensure all neighborhood concerns are addressed.



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N.I.C.E. COMMITTEE REPORT

By Dawne Bernhardt

Potholes, Pruning & Appreciation

NICE's April 19 Spring Cleaning was a great success--caring for yearling trees replaced former broom brigades. Volunteers Susan Calendar, Pat Cady, Bob Morrill, Art Peterson, Nancy Shanahan, Howard Wong, Joan Wood and Dawne Bernhardt watched Joe Butler demonstrate how to inspect young trees and provide any necessary maintenance; then we spread out, pruners and trash bags in hand, from Broadway to Bay and Columbus to Sansome. Our focus was the 400 trees planted last year as a joint THD/FUF (Friends of the Urban Forest) project. Volunteers reported that some trees are well cared for and flourishing, but many are in need. Basins were cleaned of litter and weeds, stakes reset and lower shoots pruned. We also recorded locations of potholes, curbs with ruts, graffiti and excessive litter for forwarding to appropriate City agencies.

A delicious picnic at the south terrace of Pioneer Park at Coit Tower followed the productive morning.

On hand to receive recognition and certificates at the First Annual Green Thumb Awards

presentations were June and John Coyle for over forty years of caring for the beautiful acacias on upper Vallejo, and Sara and Gene Morzenti for almost fifty years of maintaining a picture-perfect display of trees, shrubs and flowering plants on Green, between Castle and Windsor. Rod Freebairn-Smith was also recognized. His efforts, starting in the early seventies, led to the transformation of a barren block of concrete between Vallejo and Montgomery to the Vallejo Street Gardens which continue to thrive, thanks to a new generation of Green Thumbers.

Many of the 400 trees need present and ongoing care. You can help by following these directions, or by calling 391-9919 to report needy trees.

The NICE Committee holds monthly supper meetings each first Tuesday, alternating between members' homes and local restaurants. Guests and potential new members are welcome. The next meeting is scheduled for July 1 at Caffè Freddy's at 901 Columbus Avenue. Call 982-3314 for more information.

Caring for Young Trees

Water. About 15 gallons once a week. Use watering tubes to get water below the roots.

Check Stakes, Ties & Screens. Replace stakes that are too loose (do not bind) or that rub against trunks. Remove the ties before adjusting stakes, then re-tie. Adjust or remove screens if they scar trunks or restrict growth.

Clean and Weed Basins. Remove water-hungry weeds, also litter and any stray objects posing hazards to pedestrians.

Fertilize (Optional). Slowly release water that is diluted 10-10-10.

Prune. Do not top young trees--it can harm them. Remove only small shoots growing below main branches.

Green Thumb Honor Roll



Recognizing

NICE

People



*Hill residents whose gardening efforts around their homes
can be appreciated by all who pass by*

Green Thumb Honor Roll

This time we recognize three of the dedicated gardeners whose efforts keep the Filbert Steps a joy to visit.

Bountiful Gardens - The Grace Marchant Gardens. Gary Kray, Joan Levin.

Principal caretaker Gary Kray continues his dedication to maintaining the beautiful gardens, one of Telegraph Hill's most special places. People from all over the world are now enjoying yellow, deep pink and salmon colored roses, angel trumpets, fuchsias, lillies, banana trees, and the wonderful purple flower of the Princess tree, among many other plantings which flourish under Gary's care. We are so fortunate he has kept Grace's garden growing and blooming year after year.

The care that Joan Levin takes of her home and garden make them both a joy to behold. Built in 1873 the historic home was purchased by the Levin family in

1970. Terracing down the two levels is a neatly groomed, well balanced garden combining a variety of greenery with colorful flowers--alyssum, pansies and Cecil Bruner roses are set off by attractive pebble paths.

Flowering Facades and Blossoms in Boxes - 226 Filbert Steps. Joanne Trafton.

A relatively new resident, Joanne has transformed the area in front of her home into a lovely garden. Passersby stop to admire the blanket of delicate lavender and bright white flowers surrounding a special fuchsia tree, and the bougainvillea that covers much of the entrance to the house. Pots of pansies and strawberries near the front patio are special touches.

Last year, thanks to the efforts of over 70 volunteers and 6 different planting parties, 364 of the 400 Trees Project were planted throughout our neighborhood. While many of the trees are flourishing, many need care; some

have been adopted by Jim Cook and Erin Wood.

Flourishing Trees - Vallejo Street between Kearny and Grant.

Jim Cook faithfully hauls hoses up and down Vallejo to water thirsty trees. He cleans their basins and resets stakes.

Flourishing Trees and Blossoming Basins - Union Street and Grant Avenue.

In addition to watering yearling trees, Erin Wood has transformed an insignificant sidewalk into an attraction for locals and tourists. Thanks to her efforts, geraniums, tulips, daffodils, abutilum, flowering sage, rinunculas and California wildflowers grace the area.

The NICE Committee invites you to call 982-3314 to nominate a neighbor for the Green Thumb Honor Roll. We hope to hear about other Filbert Steps gardeners and Friends of 400 Trees.



Honoring the Heritage of the Hill
Preserving the Past; Serving the Present



The Hill Dwellers honor the following shop owners of long standing
who maintain and heighten the character of North Beach
and the pleasure of living on Telegraph Hill

YONE'

By Joan Wood

Joan visited Yone', and also used information in an article written by Helen von Annum in 1990 to complete this piece. Editor:

Entering Yone' at 478 Union Street you're immediately stimulated by masses of deep-hued colors. Thousands and thousands of beads lie neatly arranged in small rectangles within larger boxes. An antique doll, somewhat soiled, is for sale for \$125. The old merry-go-round horse is gone. Somehow, the beads are arranged in a coherent order, priced from one cent, to \$125--an antique from Venice.

The proprietor is a pleasant man in his fifties wearing a bedecked vest. This is Hermon (not a mis-print) Baker. He said this wonderful store was founded in 1953 as part of a veterans' cooperative founded by Yone Arashiro and Bill Wilson to produce beautiful custom-made clothing. After a year Wilson left and Hermon became Yone's new partner--a relatively silent one. Due to little profit and much anxiety in the custom garment business, the bead shop was born in 1960.

Hermon cared for Yone during a long illness and, after Yone's death in 1993, emerged from behind the scenes, both in the shop and personally. He says he has transformed himself from a behind-the-scenes gourmet cook and bottle washer, to appreciating the cuisine and music of nearby Moose's Restaurant where he can be found each Sunday and Wednesday. Harmon (named after Mt. Harmon, he says) has an assistant: Mrs. Bailey has been there 13 years.

Charlotte Swig has been a regular customer of Yone's for years. Pacific Heights matrons, teenagers, urban cowboys and many out-of-towners come to browse and buy, including foreign visitors. Beads and necklaces from the shop have graced Manhattan fashion shows for years. A young woman from Placerville told me she drives down every three weeks to refresh herself by buying more beads. I go there—not so much for the beads, as for the memories. I still have three or four dresses I commissioned in the fifties, and recall a rose satin coat with lapels which, though quite impractical, fulfilled a youthful vision of myself. I finally gave it to Goodwill and now deeply regret that impulsive act. Yone also made clothes for my mother, as she was the one who could afford such luxury.

Part of the shop's allure were the glamorous models who came in, particularly a beautiful Russian woman who seemed to prosper, and she supported a small child with no visible means of support.

Yone once did my makeup for a walk-on in a play.

Closed Wednesdays and Sundays, Yone's is open Noon-4:00 all other days. When you drop in, better wear your finest jewelry and good clothes, because this spot on Telegraph Hill has many memories of glamour, fashion, celebrity and worldliness, as well as the most interesting and beautiful beads around.

Let NICE hear from you with your recommendation for the Heritage of the Hill Award. Call 982-3314.

RHODA'S HOUSE

By Billie Atlas

It seems fitting that THD's historian and archivist, Rhoda Robinson, has lived for more than thirty years in one of the few remaining Telegraph Hill cottages dating back to Barbary Coast days; and that THD's archives are stored in a basement where, with a bit of imagination, one can still detect the intoxicating aroma of crushed grapes mingling with the steamy vapors from the former Bauer-Schweitzer malting plant on Bay Street, and the musty smell of century-old bricks and timbers.

Rhoda's curiosity about the home she bought on Francisco Street began in 1964 when she discovered an 18-inch discrepancy between the original lot size and what was recorded on her deed. Her research took her to City Hall, to the DPW, and to neighbors with long memories. It was a slow process, but eventually Rhoda gathered enough information to solve the mystery of the lost inches. Along the way, what she learned about the men and women whose lives are part of the history of her home gave her a sense of continuity with the past.

It all began in 1848 when a Benjamin Buckelew managed to acquire the whole block of mostly empty land bounded by Francisco, Stockton, Dupont (now Grant Avenue), and what was then waterfront--now Bay Street. In the process of discovery, Rhoda uncovered a few ghosts.

The first was that of James Laflin, a married Irishman with two children. In 1863 Laflin built the first house on what was called Lot 18, one of ten parcels owned by Colonel John C. Hays, the

County Sheriff, who may or may not have been a real Colonel. It was easy to reinvent oneself during those early years when everyone was a stranger in town. Col. Hays' ten lots, according to Susan Johnson and William Kostura in *A House History*, were purchased from a Benjamin Edwards who eventually made a tidy profit from the 28 lots he had bought in 1850 from the aforementioned Buckelew for \$8,400.

It was said that beginning in 1859 James Laflin operated several saloons and sailors' boarding houses in North Beach and near the eastern waterfront. He was rumored to be a "crimp"--someone in the business of shanghaiing sailors for short-handed whaleboat captains. No doubt Laflin would prefer the description in his 1906 obituary as "the principal shipping agent for whaling crews."

Before that obituary was written, Laflin had sold his house to another Irish immigrant, Michael Shea, who bought it in 1885. By then, the five blocks of Francisco

Street between Grant and Jones had been filled and graded at a cost of \$147,000, according to David Myrick in his book, *San Francisco's Telegraph Hill*.

Shea was a hardworking longshoreman, married and the father of five children, all crowded into the small one-story house where they lived for 21 years until the 1906 earthquake and fire destroyed the property. By then Shea had deeded the home to his oldest son, Thomas, who quickly rebuilt it. The house had only four rooms at that time, but was similar to most of the other working-class cottages rebuilt after the earthquake, according to Johnson & Kostura's *A House History*.



Rhoda Robinson on the doorstep of her "little red house." Photo by Billie Atlas

Rhoda's House continued

Three Shea brothers lived together in the house until it was sold in 1914 to Augusto Galluzzi, a concrete worker, and his wife Cesira. They stayed in the house for only a year but didn't sell it until 1921 to Joseph (Guiseppe) and Maria Colla, immigrants from Sicily.

At that time, Sicilians had begun to dominate San Francisco's fishing business. Colorful feluccas brought home the catches each morning to waterfront piers where fish sellers like Joseph Colla filled their baskets with fresh fish and crabs and peddled them up and down the streets of San Francisco. According to one of Joseph Colla's sons, Sal, his father's territory was the area east of Powell Street where he climbed the steep hills with two heavy fish-laden baskets hanging from a stout rope suspended across his shoulders. Customers knew Joseph was in the neighborhood when they heard the sharp blast of his horn.

Sal Colla was one of Joseph and Maria's eight children; only five sons survived. Sal remembers his childhood home as a gray wood-frame house with five small rooms and a long hallway. The family made up to five barrels of wine every year in the spacious cellar, the brothers taking turns rotating the big grape crusher. Sal recalls that his parents paid between \$12 and \$14 a ton for the grapes which were slid down a ramp to the basement.

Sal and his brothers played in the empty lots between his home and Grant Avenue. "We raised chickens and goats," he says, "and I earned money by selling the Call Bulletin newspaper at the Ferry Building for three cents a copy." Peddlers sold their wares along the cobblestoned streets in those days, and Sal remembers a grocery store across from his home in what is now the Tante Marie Cooking School. The Roma Macaroni Factory was at the southeast corner of Grant and Francisco, and Mr. Bruns' speakeasy held its own for many years at the northeast corner--a favorite spot to unload any of the day's unsold crab or fish.

Sal also remembers the smell of roasting barley from the Pioneer Malt House on Stockton Street where a pitcher of beer sold for fifteen cents and where the steam hung in the air on cold nights.

While the Collas lived in the house they added a back porch, a bathroom, and paved the basement with concrete. Sal married the girl next door, Josephine Gandolfo, whose mother was a Sabella. He and Josephine recently celebrated their 50th wedding anniversary at a surprise party staged by their three sons--Frank, an owner of Gino and Carlo's on Green Street; John, for many years a Central Station policeman, now a sergeant at the Mission Station; and Bob, who works for a shipping company in Oakland.

There were two more owners after Sal's older brother sold the house in 1955, before Rhoda took possession in 1964. Richard Godfrey, a draftsman with Bechtel, redesigned the interior as a three-room house. The Godfreys lived there until 1961 when it was sold to Morris Stall.

Rhoda has added a fireplace and chimney, copper plumbing, a new rear deck, and she built new stairs to the lower yard and basement. Her personal touch has transformed this house-with-a-past into a cozy retreat which shows affection and loving care, an endless source of delight to visitors. The welcoming entrance, framed by cascades of brilliant red bougainvillea is known in the neighborhood as "the little red house."

Inside, Rhoda has created a charming oasis with an eclectic collection of family heirlooms, gifts, and travel mementos. A snow leopard skin from China hangs on one wall, a long-ago gift from her sister. A carousel horse is the centerpiece for a collection of miniature horses. Paintings, drawings, photos and dozens of plants give a distinctive "Rhoda" touch to the charming cottage.

Rhoda not only bought a house in 1964, inheriting more than a century's worth of memories, she's become a part of its continuing history.



Joseph Colla in 1942.
Photo courtesy of Sal Colla

TOWER POWER BUILDING SUPPORT FOR PIONEER PARK

By Amy Stone

What's in a name? More than half a million dollars if the name is Coit.

The tower atop Pioneer Park continues to be the great magnet for personal and public funding to create the pedestrian-friendly green space and approach to Coit Tower envisioned back in 1931 by tower architect Arthur Brown Jr.

In March the Pioneer Park Project reached its Phase I goal of \$584,000 with a \$25,000 donation from the founder of Coit Services, Dr. Louis Kearn. Phase I will finance architect Brown's original plans for a terrace and stairways, along with the contemporary addition of a ramp for wheelchair and stroller access to the tower. Contributors of the largest private donation to date, Dr. Kearn and his son Robert were honored at a luncheon at Moose's Restaurant on March 18. Ed Moose, explaining his

hosting Dr. Kearn as a "local hero" for supporting the project, said, "Anything that makes the park more pedestrian accessible is a big plus for San Francisco. We're lucky it's in our neighborhood." Luncheon participants and sponsors reflected the public/private nature of the Pioneer Park Project. Present were Joel Robinson, Acting General Manager of the Recreation and Park Department; Mark Primeau, AIA, Director of Public Works, and THD members Anne Halsted, Jane Winslow, Maud Hallin; Coordinating Committee members Joe Butler, Howard Wong, Julie Christensen, Dawne Bernhardt.

Back in 1950 Dr. Kearn opened Coit Services, a drapery and carpet cleaning business, on Union Street, now the location of Gira Polli Restaurant.

Through franchising, the company is now an international chain headquartered in Burlingame.

A true measure of tower power—in a little over a year, the Pioneer Park Project surpassed its Phase I goal, raising \$160,000 from individuals, corporations and foundations, with a major contribution funding the ramp from the Bothin Foundation. More than \$80,000 in pro bono services has come from building and landscape architects and other professionals, along with \$200,000 committed by the

Board of Supervisors, led by Sue Bierman, and \$150,000 from the Recreation and Park Department through its Open Space Citizens Advisory Committee.

The project is now moving into Phase II fundraising. Phase II will restore the natural systems of Telegraph Hill to stop erosion—the original impetus for THD's involve-

ment—and to bring back local flora and fauna. Improved lighting is also part of the plan. One of the long-term goals is more sustainable landscaping, types that will flourish with less water and maintenance. Reforestation will include a new generation of trees gradually replacing aging cedars. Students at neighboring Garfield Elementary School are already collecting and identifying local species and mapping the terrain, thanks to a grant from the National Science Foundation.

For more information, or to join the project, call 398-5112. Tax-deductible contributions in any amount can be made to the Telegraph Hill Fund of the San Francisco Foundation, earmarked for the Pioneer Park Project. Mail checks to 1308 Montgomery, #1, San Francisco, 94133.



Anne Halsted, Pioneer Park Project co-chair for development, with Dr. Louis Kearn, founder of Coit Services at March 18 luncheon at Moose's. Photo by Stewart Bloom.

SEE YOU AT THE STREET FAIR!

To be precise, at the 43rd Annual North Beach Festival Saturday and Sunday, June 14 and 15 from 10 AM to 6 PM. Please come by THD's booth and say hello, though you may run the risk of being tapped to staff it for a while.

This is the oldest urban street fair in the country. 80,000-100,000 people come to see arts and crafts and listen to good music--jazz, swing, blues flamenco, tarantella. They come to eat. This year there will be a California Olive Showcase and food to take home from a new Italian Marketplace.

As usual, small press and booksellers' booths will be set up near a stage where local poets will read their work. Arte di Gesso (chalk art) paintings will appear on the streets, and Saturday at Noon pets can receive their annual blessings at our own St. Francis of Assisi, California's first parish church.

The North Beach Chamber of Commerce sponsors this free event where everyone seems to have a good time. See you there.



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Reporter's Notebook

By Clyde Steiner

THD GOES ELECTRONIC!

It's happening all over Telegraph Hill. Every evening after dinner people are abandoning TV. From sitcom time until the late news, they sit at their computer keyboards retrieving their e-mail and surfing the Internet for tidbits of information.

It had to happen to Telegraph Hill Dwellers, too!

San Francisco's venerable neighborhood association has opened its own site on the internet.

www.movedoc.com/thd will be the clearing house for locals who want instant information about neighborhood projects and interaction with the powers-that-be at City Hall.

You can now also reach THD's Board of Directors by directing e-mail notes to thd@movedoc.com

It's hoped that this instant avenue of communication will give everyone a sense of greater participation in the events that shape our neighborhood. You can find out about Planning Commission meetings, voice your suggestions and, of course, volunteer for committees, such as Parking and Traffic, which has convinced the city to free up parking all over the Hill by eliminating excess white and red zones.

movedoc.com/thd is searching right now for a neighborhood guru who will take over the running of this new web site.

Check it out in June and drop us a note at thd@movedoc.com.

WOLF COOKIES

By Helen von Ammon

Although any Cookie Monster can wolf through a batch of wolf cookies in a trice, that's not how they got their name. It all started with an animal conservation project.

As lemmings run toward the sea, annually I visit Tallahassee, Florida and the Tallahassee Museum of History and Natural Science. On more than fifty five acres the museum has preserved the history and buildings of this northern Florida area from the beginning of the 19th Century to the present. My special interest is the museum's natural habitats of animals native to Florida, some of which are endangered species.

Several years ago the museum was chosen to participate in the Red Wolf Program, the first attempt to reintroduce and breed a species which is extinct in the wild, and only about a hundred remain in captivity. Rosemary Havrilak, the museum's concessions manager, celebrated this important program by inventing the now-famous WOLF COOKIE. She commissioned a metal mold of an actual Red Wolf paw print. Assisted by volunteers, her cookie dough recipe is poured into the molds and baked. The result is a large delicious paw print cookie which is especially delicious because all sales benefit the museum.

Rosemary generously shares her recipe—below. It makes about 48 large cookies. And your own cookie mold will do the job. The aroma of cookies baking is guaranteed to cause a stampede, so stand back and await compliments to the chef.

WOLF COOKIES—TALLAHASSEE MUSEUM

6 cups sugar	6 cups (3 blocks
3/4 bottle butternut	margarine)
flavoring	
16 cups flour	3/4 box cornstarch
1-1/2 tsp salt	3 tsp baking powder
1/4 cup vanilla flavoring	4 eggs
2 cups sour cream	4 tbsp cinnamon

Cream margarine. Add sugar, mix well. Add butternut flavoring and vanilla. Mix in eggs one at a time. Mix remaining ingredients together. Add more cornstarch if necessary. Press dough into oiled and floured molds, then use a pointed knife to pry out of molds and place the dough on cookie sheets. Sprinkle with colored sugar. Bake in 375 oven for about 20 minutes. ENJOY!

P. S. The Red Wolf breeding program has been highly successful. Pups born in the museum's large habitat now have their own young to be radio-collared and released to other selected sites.

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SUMMER PROGRAMS AT THE CHILDREN'S LIBRARY

By Jensa Woo, Children's Librarian

"Read Around the City!" is the theme for San Francisco Public Library's 1997 Summer Reading Club which will run June 14-August 9. To encourage kids to read during the summer months, children ages 13 and under can join this club at the North Beach Library. They will receive small incentive prizes for reading and, upon completing 8 hours of reading, choose one of several grand prizes: a paperback book, or a pass for two to the Morrison Planetarium at the California Academy of Sciences, or tickets for two to selected Giants baseball games. In addition, kids ages 10-16 can volunteer in the library's Kid Power program and help run the summer reading club. Call me for more details.

The library is also featuring special summer programs to help stir and stretch kids' imagination:

Tureeda Mikell, a storyteller, poet and dancer, brings tales from Africa for ages 3 and older. June 17, 10:30 AM.

"Mr. Science's Slime Program" features slime-making at its gooiest for ages 6 and older. July 3, 2:30 PM.

Teressa Killeen presents "The Lizard Lady's Reptile Revue," a fascinating close up look at live reptiles for ages 4 and older. July 8 at 3:00 PM.

Anthony DeQuattro's "Beat Bonanza! Rhythms From Around the World" for ages 5 and older. July 30 at 2:00 PM.

Linda Zittel and her Magic Window Puppets tell stories, old and new, to ages 3 and older. August 5 at 10:30 AM.

To find out more about these and other summer programs call the library at 274-0270. And don't forget--there are regular storytimes for infants, toddlers and preschoolers.

The North Beach library is located at 2000 Mason at Columbus.

ARTISTS AT WORK

By Rod Freebairn-Smith

The Pioneer Park Project is inspiring all kinds of activities. Below is a photo of an impressively large model of the top of Telegraph Hill from Lombard to Filbert, and Telegraph Hill Boulevard almost to Montgomery. It was constructed by class members of the Art Academy's Architectural Modelmaking Course supervised by Marshall Roath--at center of photo--who's a member of the project's design team; another AA instructor, David Burkholder, at far left, and landscape architect Brian Gatter at top right. Also pictured at the unveiling are students Michael Warren, Amy Campbell and Raquel Bates. At far right, THD President Gerry Crowley.



Photo by Rod Freebairn-Smith

The model is available as a centerpiece for fundraisers. Call Marshall Roath for more information—433-9453.

THE WILD PARROT SLIDE SHOW...

...drew an SRO turnout to the North Beach Library in March. People packed in and stood outside peering through the windows to see and learn something about the fine feathered screeching friends with whom we share our neighborhood. Mark Bittner presented the show, following up his First Person article in the Chronicle describing Telegraph Hill's wild parrots—who they are, primarily cherry-headed conures—and how they survive on the precarious perch of urban life.

Mark's wonderful photographs of the birds satisfied the curiosity of many of us who have tried for years to see these characters close up. Of course, we've seen them at work--entertaining astonished tourists in Washington Square, stripping fruit and seeds from trees in nothing flat. Richard Marshall who attended the slide show recalls the day 24 birds arrived to consume the crop on a backyard apple tree; he's since added grafts to the tree to produce more delicious fruit to attract parrots with gourmet inclination. Marshall's recollection of a flock of parrots in the Mission district, apparently sustained by date palm trees, was confirmed by Bittner who says there are at least two flocks in the city, maybe more.

"Our" flock, though, is Bittner's specialty. In describing his care, feeding and understanding of the personalities of individual members he tells a wonderful story. If you missed the show, or want

to see it again, you have the chance. Gardner Haskell reports that the North Beach Library is sponsoring a repeat performance--this time, in the Koret Auditorium at the Main Library (Grove, between Hyde and Larkin) at 6 PM on Wednesday, June 25.

Thanks, Gardner, for booking a show everyone loved. Thanks, Mark, for sharing your labor of love with the rest of us.



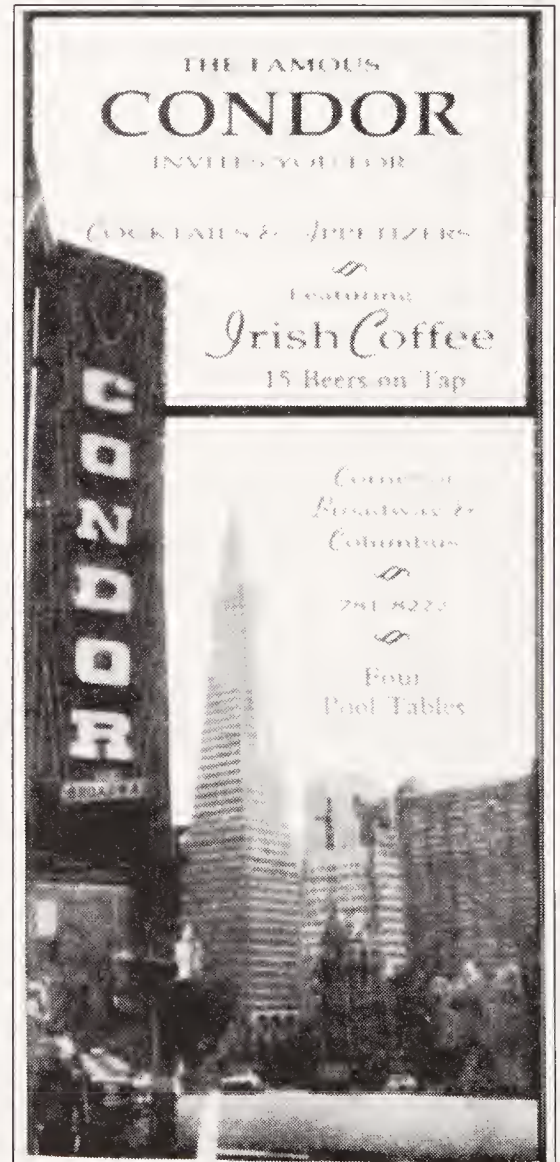
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NEW BOOKS

The Semaphore welcomes recommendations of local-interest books. The following reviews of *Straight To The Heart* and *Russian Hill: The Summit* are by the Editor.

Straight To The Heart

Political Cantos

By Angela Alioto

Russian Hill Press, San Francisco

All book stores \$22.95

Politicians sensitive to criticism will find themselves tested by this book which proves Alioto can give as good as she gets. An Index was purposely omitted, so her subjects must actually read the book to find out what she said about them.

Daughter of former mayor--Joe, born in the 500 block of Filbert Street--like her dad, she's most at home in North Beach, prominent in a neighborhood of loyal constituents who helped elect her to the Board of Supervisors from 1989-97, as President from 1993-95. Polls had her winning the '95 Mayor's race until Willie Brown, forced out of the Assembly by term limits, arrived in San Francisco with plenty of money to spend and plans for fixing the city's most stubborn problems. Prior to his inevitable win, Alioto bowed out to return to a lucrative law practice. Temporarily? This to-the-bone San Francisco politician may exemplify the Chinese adage: While obliged to wait, the wise person dines well.

Like her personality and political style the book goes straight to the point. She tackles controversial topics one by one with trademark self-confidence that kept her in the faces of people who dreaded tangling with her, and the belief that politicians who can't stay on the high road ought to get off the road altogether.

An outspoken liberal with non-negotiable issues, she's tested opponents' ingenuity. A harrowing chapter describes investigations launched to discredit her, which failed. Rumors of retaliatory excommunication by the former Catholic Archbishop didn't stop her from acting to prevent the demolition of two of North Beach's most historic buildings, landmarked churches.

Text selected from Dante's *Inferno*, example: A *wretched Godless crew*, sets up disturbing accounts of social programs scuttled by internecine wars. The former Supervisor perceives members of the present Board of Supervisors--historically, the feuding checks and balances who keep a city honest--with one exception, as rubber stamps for Mayor Brown. But how long can they, or we, or even he, she asks, sit patiently through a production that has only one speaking role while the scenery burns? In this book Alioto, seeing smoke, has yelled "Fire!"

cont. on next page

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NEW BOOKS (cont. from previous page)

Russian Hill: The Summit

By William Kostura

Signed copies available from Aerie Publications, PO Box 27365 SF 94127. \$19.48 includes tax and postage.

Also available from String Box Books, 1210 Union.

Home Drug, 1200 Union.

Wm. Stout Books, 804

Montgomery. Tillman Place Books, 8 Tillman Place.

Stacy's Books, A Clean Well-Lighted Place for Books.

To read this wonderful book you must stay put. Overcome the urge to immediately visit the fine little "suburb", architect Willis Polk called it, where bohemians, artists and entrepreneurs--whose adventures of star-crossed fortune hunting can make your hair stand on end--built beautiful family homes. Many of the houses still stand; their histories are vividly recounted here, including the Atkinson House at 1032 Broadway, recently announced

for sale for \$2.5 million.

Where black wooden crosses marked seven Russian graves, building lots sold for \$37.50 in 1848. In 1853, \$5,000 purchased the entire block bounded by Broadway, Vallejo, Taylor and Jones accessible, like Telegraph Hill, by goat path. Photos and engravings of the earliest development schemes and the families who implemented them generously illustrate histories drawn from diaries, letters, memoirs and archival materials.

This is the first of a projected series of books on the Russian Hill neighborhood. The Summit covers the period 1853-1906 when a minister named Joseph Worcester built three shingle style houses, two of which remain at 1034, 1036 Vallejo. In his quiet way, Rev. Worcester, who co-designed the Swedenborgian Church for his congregation, revolutionized

Bay Area architecture. The close-to-nature harmony of buildings wrapped by unpainted wood marked the beginning of the end of the Victorian era stickwork-decorated houses. His own modest shingle home built with a fine view of Telegraph Hill would, if it stood today, look onto a formidable concrete wall. Kostura gives scrupulous accounting of the rise and fall of genteel habitat. at the top of another famous hill.

The author is an architectural historian and former Landmarks Board member who's spent much time at City Hall helping to save the lives of some of the city's loveliest buildings. Instead of us rewarding him, he gives us the gift of this book. Meticulous Notes and an extensive Bibliography round out this impressive neighborhood history.

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IT'S SUMMERTIME, AND THE WALKING IS EASY

By June Fraps

Between them, City Guides and Friends of the Urban Forest offer you a multitude of ways to take a fresh look at San Francisco, and Telegraph Hill in particular.

You can check out the Coit Tower Murals any Saturday at 11 AM by showing up at the main entry to the tower. Telegraph Hill Hikes start from the Marconi monument at the beginning of Telegraph Hill Boulevard the first and third Thursdays at 5:30 PM.

An inside look at the alleys

and side streets of Chinatown is offered on Saturdays at 10 AM and Mondays at 1:30. Meet on the edge of Portsmouth Square, at Kearny and Clay.

A venture downtown can give you a different perspective on Union Square: Pick up the *Brothels, Boardinghouses, and Bawds* walk at Noon on Mondays, and take an historic look at a "shady profession."

Meet at the Native Sons monument, Montgomery at Market to discover hidden gardens, rooftop parks and other

surprises on the City Scapes and Roof Gardens Walk each Friday at 10 AM and 2 PM.

Friends of the Urban Forest offers walks in a variety of neighborhoods this summer on Saturdays at 10 AM: Cole Valley, June 14; Yerba Buena Gardens, June 28; Bernal Heights, July 19; Russian Hill, August 16; Alta Plaza and Lafayette Park, September 2.

For more details and full schedules, call City Guides at 557-4266, and Friends of the Urban Forest at 543-5000.

MORE ON LOST CATS

You may have seen a warning posted around the neighborhood--two men were seen on the Filbert Steps trying to lure cats into a pet carrier. In the last Semaphore a neighbor reported local cats were turning up missing. When Marsha Garland's two cats came home badly injured, she called Animal Care and Control. Marsha urges us to call that organization to report missing or injured cats, and to intervene, call the police to report suspicious activities. It might be a good idea to keep an outside cat inside for a while.

MORE ON FOILING RACCOONS

By Maud Hallin

In response to Helen von Ammon's lovely piece in the last Semaphore, I have the following suggestions. Small mothballs may not discourage raccoons, but the big ones do, in an enclosed space. I've found that raccoons do not share my taste for chilies. Crushed, very strong chili peppers that can stick between their little toes are effective. When they sleep during the day (in a small space between me and my neighbor's buildings) I play Shostakovich, Symphony No. 7. The

entrance into Leningrad is particularly disturbing to the little critters.

Around my fish pond, I've kept them out by installing a low voltage "pet deterrent" fence. It's the only thing that's proved effective. I've also tried traps, but the traps sold in this city must have been designed at the turn of the century. Our raccoons eat a regular American diet and are too fat for those traps. Maybe the smart thing would be an anti-fertility drug put out at night mixed with pet food?

PORT-POURRI

A medley of recent activities concerning the waterfront monitored by Bob Tibbits

UNVEILED: WATERFRONT PLAN DESIGN & ACCESS ELEMENTS

The Port's Technical Advisory Committee met in April to make final revisions to the draft urban design and public access elements of the Waterfront Land Use Plan. The "overarching" goal of the WLUPlan is "to reunite the City with the waterfront." Policies and design criteria laid out in the draft report "...address how the design and location of new public access and open spaces, protections and expansion of views and preservation of historic resources will help achieve this goal."

The report envisions a "continuously accessible waterfront from Aquatic Park to Pier 70," recognizing six distinct shoreline segments-- Fisherman's Wharf, the base of Telegraph Hill, Downtown, South Beach, Mission Bay and Pier 70--that are linked by a series of City Connection Areas, at five or ten minute walk intervals. Surrounding Telegraph Hill are three such areas: (a) a development area around Piers 31-35 including the seawall lot at the corner of Bay and the Embarcadero to create a gateway to Fisherman's Wharf; (b) a

new Northeast Wharf open space between Piers 15 and 29, and (c) Pier 7 (the new Jim Augustino Pier) and the seawall lots that form a "focal point" where Broadway meets the Embarcadero. Each area will be connected by the "PortWalk," a combination of sidewalks and public access areas along the Embarcadero. To complete this waterfront experience, public circulation is called for around and through the piers.

The urban design and public access plan also classifies various existing and future waterfront plazas and parks, such as East Wharf Park between Pier 35 and Pier 39, and the potential new open space at the Triangle at Fisherman's Wharf. A special study will be conducted for the zone between Pier 15 and Pier 29 to examine urban design features for the post-cargo related uses of these piers, and a new public open space at Pier 27-29. Design for the latter, so-called "Northeast Wharf," at the foot of Lombard Street calls for a 500-foot-wide public access area from the north edge of Pier 23 through the southern part of Pier 27.

Another aim of the WLUPlan is to achieve "an evolving waterfront, mindful of its past and

future." The design and access emphasize "San Francisco's history...rooted in the waters surrounding the City, the Bay to the east and the vast Pacific Ocean to the west." Our world-recognized "cityscape" along the waterfront has numerous examples of the evolution of engineering, transportation, architecture and civic design, including associations with historic events, such as development of international trade routes. In the context of Telegraph Hill, starting with Fish Alley, Pier 45 and the Ferry Arch in Fisherman's Wharf, the report inventories the bulkhead and connector at Pier 29, the Annex Beltline Office and Beltline Roundhouse across the Embarcadero and the bulkheads and sheds of Piers 9, 15, 19-23.

To obtain a copy of the draft Waterfront Design & Access Report, call Dan Hodapp, Chief Port Planner, 274-0625.

cont on page 29

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cont. from pg. 26

PLANS FOR FERRY BUILDING PLAZA ROADWAYS ARE NEAR COMPLETION

The Waterfront Transportation Projects Office is completing construction drawings for the split roadway, with the median plaza area in front of the Ferry Building. The final rendition, however, will include but a few improvements to Justin Herman Plaza, such as the demolition of the concrete "wave wall" which will be replaced by a gradually tiered landscaping along the southbound curved roadway that abuts the park. Tall trees that were intended to screen the Embarcadero Freeway from City-side view will also be removed. In their place will be a continuation of the paired Canary Island palm trees that now grace the southern and northern extensions of the roadway. The landscaping will be 40 or so deciduous trees in the median oval and along the portico of the Ferry Building. Final design plans should be ready for contractors' bids later this summer, with actual construction starting early in 1998, nearly a decade after Loma Prieta. Funding for this portion of the project will be provided by Federal Emergency Management Administration as

remediation for the earthquake damage.

ROMA Design Group's plan for the median plaza calls for surfacing in gray and black granite blocks, and two 45-foot "light cannons" pointed skyward. These embellishments, however, will have to be funded independent of FEMA grants. The park area south of Market Street will be surfaced in concrete to provide flexible public use, a venue for public event tenting, such as the Black and White Ball. Eventually, the MUNI bus layover area will be relocated to the new terminal facility at Beale and Mission.

Having served as Chairman of the Mid-Embarcadero Open Space Committee that worked with the Projects Office and ROMA for over two years to develop a grand design scheme for the entire area between Washington and Howard Streets, one feels very disappointed with the results of this important civic endeavor. The failure to develop Blocks 202 and 203 (former freeway ramps touch down areas) against the recommendation of the MEOS Committee was a devastating political setback. It would have made possible a projected \$18 million beautification expenditure for expansion of hard and

softscape areas north to Washington and south to Mission, new open space improvements on the west and east edges of the curved roadway configuration, and a children's playground. It is truly a sad testament to the twisted reasoning that places the public subsidization of building professional sports arenas over a once-in-a-lifetime opportunity to replace an unwanted freeway blight with a beautiful, grand public open space in the most prominent downtown site in San Francisco.

This may be your last Semaphore!

If the mailing label on this Semaphore is dated 3/1/97 or earlier, your membership has lapsed, and we hope you'll rectify that situation with a check. If you think our records are incorrect or you are in doubt about your membership status, please call June Fraps, 392-1187, or drop a note to THD, Membership, PO Box 330159, San Francisco, CA 94133. We want to keep you with us!

LOCAL CRIME AND PUNISHMENT

By Patricia Cady

On March 3 more than a hundred locals packed into Cafe Francisco to attend a meeting called by Richard Johnson--new co-chair, with Nancy Lenvin, of THD's Crime Prevention Committee. They talked about robberies, auto burglaries/thefts, and muggings which some had personally experienced, and ways to improve personal and property security. It was agreed that better home and street lighting are needed: Install bright lighting around your home. Report burned out street lamps and request the City to improve lighting on dark streets.

At the meeting Central Station's Lieutenant Tom Del Torre made the point that crime statistics will appear to fall, even when incidents rise, if crimes aren't reported. Sometimes people don't want to get involved, understandable, except that police are sensitive to wishes for privacy and will help protect it; when you report a crime express your concerns. Good citizens may not want to take time to go to the station to file a police report, or call a patrol car to their home. Times have changed. Many after-the-fact crimes can be reported by phone--a teleservice number is on a clipout list at the end of this article.

Always report a crime in progress. Because a witness called 911 during the recent attempted theft of my own car, officers arrested the thieves just before they drove away. Report any crime you have

sustained or witnessed. SFPD uses this information to try to make arrests and recover stolen property, also to discern patterns and pinpoint trouble areas to concentrate personnel.

People at the March 3 meeting said they'd like to see more beat cops patrolling the neighborhood. When I reported this message at April's Police Commission meeting, top cops' interest was evident, especially that of Central Station's Captain Heather Fong who wants to attend the next neighborhood crime prevention meeting.

Keep in mind that deploying additional forces requires more money. Getting it from the City is a pro-active process. By our reporting crimes, police have accurate stats they can use to back up requests for adequate funding. The agenda for May's THD Board of Directors meeting includes considering sending a letter to the Board of Supervisors asking for additional funding for Central Station; its beat includes the city's highest concentration of tourists in our densely populated neighborhood.

Watchful neighbors prevent many crimes, Lt. Del Torre said. A fellow showing suspicious interest in a neighbor's property can be shoo'd off by an avuncular can-I-help-you. A telephone tree linking neighbors helps us sort out lurking strangers from legitimate visitors. We are SFPD's eyes and ears. Pay attention to unfamiliar cars with out-

of-state plates, often a criminal's vehicle of choice. If you call the police, be ready to give best possible descriptions of vehicles, haircuts, clothing--especially shoes; culprits can quick-change jackets, rarely shoes.

Punishment of crimes is another matter. The officer said police are often frustrated seeing criminals they arrest one day back on the streets the next, particularly youthful offenders who are set free for a variety of reasons including lack of evidence. For example, a purse-snatcher will not be prosecuted--though he's caught holding the purse and is identified by the victim, unless another witness can be found to testify. It may not do any good, but you have the right to call the District Attorney's office to complain about policies you think are unfair--in general, and to plead a specific case. The Semaphore printed an interview with D. A. Hallinan soon after he took office; maybe it's time to ask him to discuss this issue.

THD's Crime Prevention Committee is forming a liason with SAFE, a community crime prevention program endorsed by SFPD, whose representative gave a convincing presentation at the March 3 meeting; specifically, about forming a Neighborhood Watch. Call SAFE or one of the committee's co-chairs at the numbers below if you want to participate. SAFE's brochures on personal, home and vehicle safety are excellent and available by mail.

Neighborhood Safety Telephone

Report Crimes in Progress (Emergencies)	911
Report Crimes (not Emergencies)	553-0123
SFPD Teleservice (file police reports by phone)	
	553-9137
SAFE (form a Neighborhood Watch)	553-1984
SAFE (order safety brochures)	673-SAFE
Improve Street Lighting	554-0729
Report Burned Out Street Lights	
See below	
Trim Trees Blocking Street Lights	695-2162
Report Theft of Recycling Materials	330-CURB
Report Grafitti	241-WASH

Report Cars Blocking Driveway	553-1200
Report Abandoned Cars	781-JUNK
District Attorney's Office	553-1752
THD Crime Prevention Committe:	
Richard Johnson	445-9902
Nancy Lenvin	397-6424

Report Burned Out Street Lights

Report City-maintained lights (on metal poles) to 554-0730. Report PG&E-maintained lights to 695-3201. These are usually on wooden poles, but may be on metal poles when they support Muni overhead lines. Look before you call.

LIGHT RAIL TO NORTH BEACH? IT'S WAY DOWN THE ROAD

By June A. Osterberg

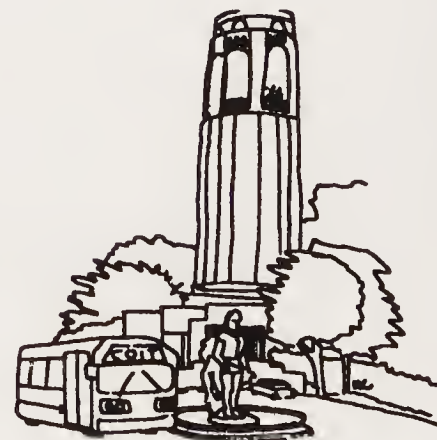
On April 10 the San Francisco Chronicle carried the provocative headline: "Muni Light Rail from Bayview to North Beach Do-able by 2003." Probably this prospect was viewed with mixed feelings by Hill Dwellers and North Beachers already tired of dusty, noisy and seemingly unending street projects underway in our community. On the other hand, since the light rail system would replace the unreliable and crowded 15 Muni line, it is a reason for rejoicing. However, it is a don't-hold-your-breath situation.

At a "Chinatown/Downtown Neighborhood Workshop" held by Muni April 15 at the Jean

Parker School on Broadway, it was clear that the initial phase of the ambitious project will culminate at Third and King Streets, south of Market and dozens of blocks short of North Beach. The line will originate at the CalTrain Bayshore Boulevard Station and go up Third to 16th Street. Muni held several neighborhood meetings to sample public opinion about 3 proposals for where the line should go from there.

Most respondents at the April 15 meeting favored Option 2, in which the light rail line would have a new subway traveling underground along Third Street, beginning north of Brannan and extending to Chinatown. This Central Subway, which would

be the costliest and take longest to construct, "...could eventually connect with possible future Geary and North Beach light rail lines." The key word here is "future" -- perhaps 20 to 30 years, depending on funding. For more information about light rail plans and upcoming meetings call the Project Hotline, 703-6655.



Jim Augustino (1947-1996)

By Bob Tibbits

On what would have been his fiftieth birthday March 28, the former THD President who died in a cross-country skiing tragedy last December was honored by San Francisco's Port Commission. In his memory Pier 7, the popular fishing venue, was designated "Jim Augustino Pier." It is indeed a fitting tribute to Jim, an intrepid fisherman who, with his close friend Henry, plied the waters inside and outside the Golden Gate in their boat, the infamous "Nip-Wop." Fitting also, because Jim, working with then-Port Commissioner THDer Anne Halsted, had been instrumental in creating Pier 7, the first pier designed exclusively for public access to the Bay.

After prepping as Legislative Assistant to then-Supervisor Jack Molinari in the mid-seventies, Jim went on to become Executive Director of Telegraph Hill Neighborhood Center where, working with the Mayor's Office of Community Development, he undertook a long-overdue remodeling and expansion of the center. Last year, ironically, his successor at Tel-Hi, Denise McCarthy, was appointed to the Port Commission which voted to rename the pier in his honor last February.

Over a hundred friends and relatives attended the designation ceremony. Assemblyman Kevin Shelley and Henry Izumisaki presided. Jim's son Harvey and his 5-piece band played his Dad's favorite swing music.

The Augustino family requests that any memorial donations be made to the Jim "Augie" Augustino Memorial Youth Fund at Tel-Hi Center at 660 Lombard Street, SF 94133. The fund will provide academic assistance for young sportsmen and women.

THD Committees Need You

You can make a difference!
Join one of THD's committees,
meet and work with your fellow
Hill Dwellers to improve life on
the Hill.

SPECIAL COMMITTEES

Crime Prevention. Co-chairs
Richard Johnson, 445-9902.
Nancy Lenvin, 397-6424.
Organizes S.A.F.E. neighbor-
hood watch groups and works
with Police Department on local
crime problems. Participates in
Police Community Relations.

H.A.L.O. Art Chang, 331-9595
x 733. Focuses on the History,
Art, Landmarks and
Organizations that tell, show,
demonstrate and create the story
of our neighborhood.

Hill's Angels. Mia Morrill, 982-
4850. Getting families together
for fun with their children and to
work on projects to improve our
environment on Telegraph Hill.

N.I.C.E. Dawne Bernhardt,
982-3314. Creates neighbor-
hood projects that Improve,
Conserve, Enhance the Hill.
Work parties plant, clean, beauti-
fy. N.I.C.E. Awards recognize
"People Who Make A
Difference."

N.E.R.T. June Fraps, 392-1187.
Energizes members to take
emergency disaster response

training program sponsored by
the City.

Neighborhood Liaison. Sue
Cauthen, 391-0737. Represents
THD at Coalition for SF
Neighborhoods, a city-wide
organization that meets monthly
to interact with other neighbor-
hoods to discuss common prob-
lems.

Parking and Traffic. Sheila
Black, 398-7090. Represents
THD before City agencies on
traffic control, curb markings
and Muni service, cooperating
with other neighborhood groups.

**Pioneer Park Improvement
Project.** Howard Wong, 982-
5055. Its goal is to increase use-
ability of the Park's open space
and to improve accessibility and
safety through planning, work
parties and fundraising.

Planning and Zoning. Aaron
Peskin and Nancy Shanahan,
Co-chairs, 986-7094. Assists
neighbors with zoning issues and
Discretionary Reviews; repre-
sents THD positions before the
Planning Commission and
works with developers and the
City to protect neighborhood
character.

Waterfront. Bob Tibbits, 986-
7227. Monitors new develop-
ment projects for commercial
and recreational activities as they
are processed by the Port

Commission, Planning
Department and SF Bay
Conservation and Development
Commission.

Administration. Clyde Steiner,
398-8093. Works with President
to confirm organization's com-
pliance with THD bylaws.

STANDING COMMITTEES

Budget. Paul Switzer, 788-
8667. As prescribed in bylaws
for Treasurer.

Membership. June Fraps, 392-
1187. As prescribed in bylaws
for Financial Secretary.

Program. Co-chairs Billie
Atlas, 433-1634; Terry Bertrand,
981-3514. Arranges social
events, including quarterly
membership meetings and get-
acquainted social functions.

Semaphore. Patricia Cady, 397-
2175. The editor and staff pro-
duce a quarterly magazine for
THD members.



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THD CALENDAR

Grant Avenue Street Fair. June 14-15. 10AM-6PM.

N.I.C.E. Committee dinner meeting July 1. For more information call 982-3314.

San Francisco Symphony September 4. Prepay tickets by July 1. See Social News for more information.

1st Saturday Stair & Garden Work Parties. July 5, August 2, September 6. Meet at Pioneer Park. For more information call 391-9919.

N.I.C.E. Committee meets 1st Tuesdays monthly. 982-3314.

Parking & Traffic Committee meets 2nd Saturdays monthly. 11 AM at Little City Restaurant, Union and Powell Streets.

The Coalition for San Francisco Neighborhoods meets 3rd Tuesdays. 391-0737.